



## **U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management**

Anchorage Field Office  
4700 BLM Road  
Anchorage, Alaska 99507  
(907) 267-1246

<http://www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/fo/ado.html>

---

### **Categorical Exclusion Anchorage Water and Wastewater Utility Renewal**

**Applicant: Anchorage Water and Wastewater Utility  
Case File Number: AA-92480  
DOI-BLM-AK-A010-2010-0046-CX**



**Location:**  
Sec. 30, T. 13 N., R. 2 W., Seward Meridian, Alaska

**Prepared By:**  
Anchorage Field Office  
July 15, 2011

**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION**

**A. Background**

BLM Office: Anchorage Field Office      Lease/Serial/Case File No: AA-92480

Environmental Document No: DOI-BLM-AK-A010-2010-0046-CX

Proposed Action Title/Types: This is a renewal for a right-of-way for an existing production water well, a 1.25 million gallon reservoir, related pumping station, an access road, a water main, and an electrical transmission line.

AA-92480 – Anchorage Water and Wastewater Utility – right-of-way, under the authority of Title V of the Federal Land Policy Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1761).

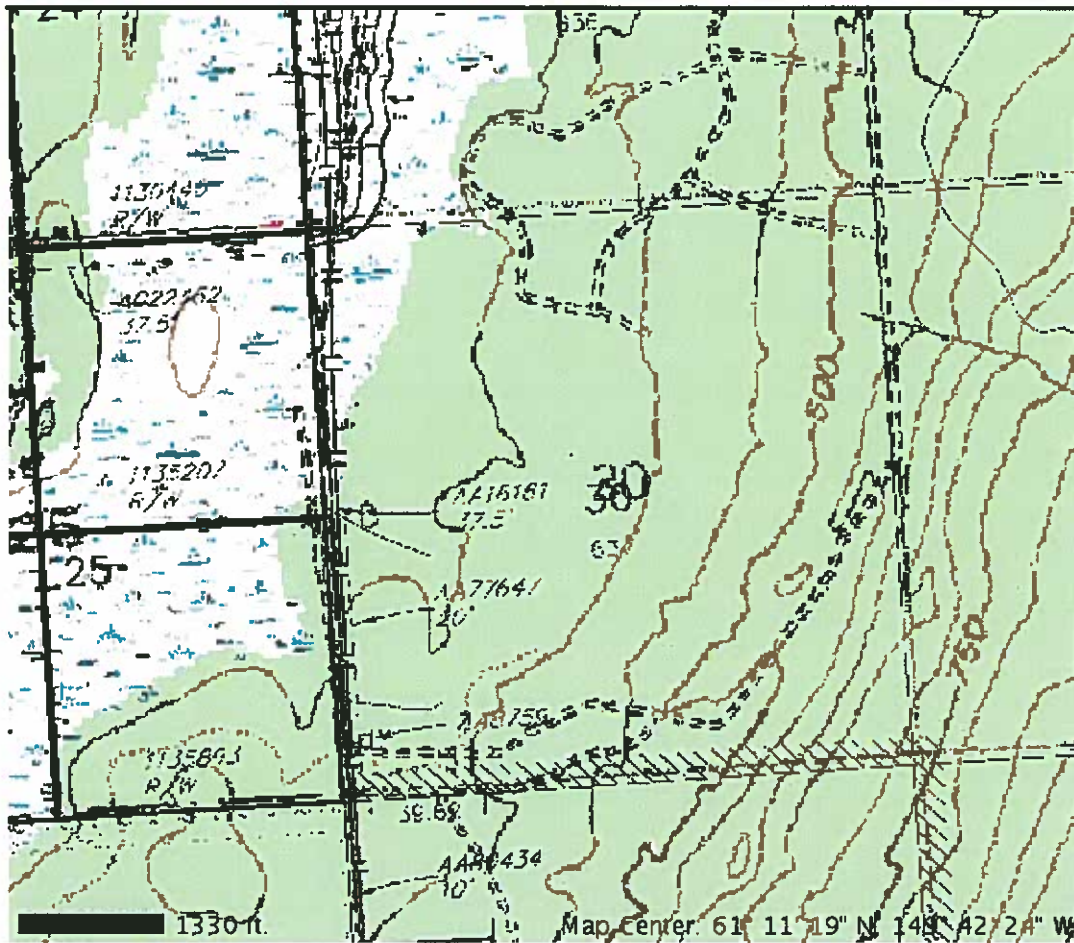
Location of Proposed Action: NW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>SW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>SW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>SW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, Sec. 30, T. 13 N., R. 2 W., Seward Meridian, Alaska, located on Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson (JBER) withdrawn lands and administered by Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Anchorage Field Office.

**Description of Proposed Action:**

On December 23, 1973, the Anchorage Water and Wastewater Utility applied for a right-of-way to put in a production water well, a 1.25 million gallon reservoir, related pumping station, an access road, a water main and an electrical transmission line, to supply water to an area of Anchorage that was growing. This was authorized on April 30, 1974. This right-of-way was in place until it expired in 2008. The original case was closed. A renewal application was filed on June 18, 2010, and AWWU is requesting a 20 year authorization. This site encompasses approximately 0.7 acres. The renewal application requests the same authorization that was in place before the expiration and there will be no changes to the existing site and associated rights-of-way.

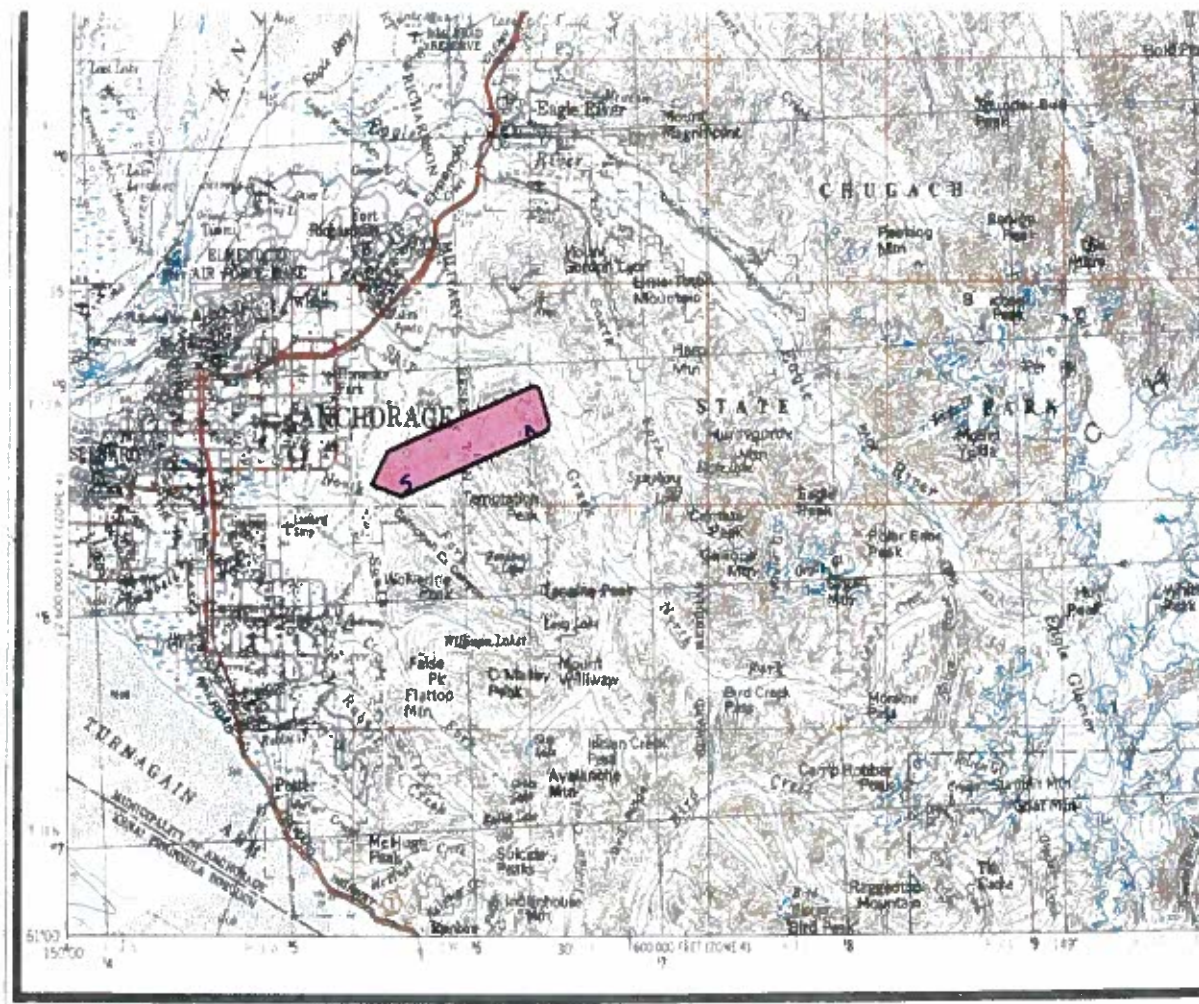


Aerial View of site from Google Earth.



SDMS created map of the site.





USGS topo map of site location.

Applicant (if any): Anchorage Water and Wastewater Utility

**B. Land Use Plan Conformance 43 CFR 1610.5-3(a)**

Land Use Plan Name: Ring of Fire Resource Management Plan Date Approved: March, 2008

☐ The proposed action is in conformance with plan because it is specifically provided for in the following planning decisions:

☒ The proposed action is in conformance with the plan even though it is not specifically provided for because it is clearly consistent with the following planning decisions (objectives, terms, and conditions):

I-1: 2. Provide a balance between land use (right-of-way, permits, leases and sales) and resource protection which best serves the public at large.

### C. NEPA Compliance

The proposed action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with United States Department of the Interior 43 CFR §46.210 or United States Department of Interior Manual, Part 516, Chapter 11 which provides:

H-1790-1 – National Environmental Policy Act Handbook, Appendix 4, BLM Categorical Exclusions:

E. Realty – 9. Renewals and assignments of leases, permits, or rights-of-way where no additional rights are conveyed beyond those granted by the original authorizations.

### D. Extraordinary Circumstances

The following Departmental List of Extraordinary Circumstances apply to individual actions. Departmental instructions mandate that environmental documents must be prepared for actions which may:

		YES	NO
1.	Have significant adverse impacts on public health or safety.	_____	<u>X</u>
2.	Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.	_____	<u>X</u>
3.	Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available	_____	<u>X</u>

resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].

- |     |   |       |   |
|-----|---|-------|---|
| 4.  | Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.   | _____ | X |
| 5.  | Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.   | _____ | X |
| 6.  | Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.   | _____ | X |
| 7.  | Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.  | _____ | X |
| 8.  | Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.  | _____ | X |
| 9.  | Violate Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.   | _____ | X |
| 10. | Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).  | _____ | X |
| 11. | Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).   | _____ | X |
| 12. | Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112). | _____ | X |

This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances in 43 CFR §46.215 are pertinent.

**E. Signature**

The proposed action is in conformance with a management framework plan or a resource management plan, 43 C.F.R. § 1610.8(a)(3). The Department of the Interior has determined and found that the proposed action is within a category of actions that do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment and that neither an environmental assessment nor an environmental impact statement is required, 40 C.F.R. §1508.4.

This action has been analyzed as required by Washington Office Instruction Memorandum 2002-053 to determine if it will cause an adverse impact on energy development. The action will not have an adverse direct or indirect impact on energy development, production or distribution. The preparation of a Statement of Adverse Energy Impact is not required.

**Compliance and Monitoring Responsibility:** Anchorage Field Office Realty Staff

It is therefore my decision to implement the action, as described, with appropriate mitigation measures or stipulations.

Mitigation Measures/Stipulations: (See Attached)

Authorized Official:  Date: 8/17/2011